

As Nor Pao Lor told his story, one of the event's speakers, Jane Hamilton-Merritt, who wrote a book called "Tragic Mountains: The Hmong, the Americans, and the Secret Wars for Laos," asked the assembled veterans how many of them had helped rescue a downed American pilot. Hundreds, including Nor Pao Lor, raised their hands.

After the ceremony on the Mall, the veterans marched across Memorial Bridge to Arlington National Cemetery, where they placed flowers on the grave of President John F. Kennedy. Nearby is a memorial that is to be dedicated today to "the U.S. Secret Army, Laos 1961-1973." In the Lao and Hmong languages, the plaque on the granite monument concludes, "You will never be forgotten."

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF DOWNEY, CALIFORNIA, TO AMERICA'S SPACE PROGRAM

HON. STEPHEN HORN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 16, 1998

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, yesterday was a bittersweet moment in the history of the City of Downey in the 38th Congressional District of California. In ceremonies the National Aeronautics and Space Administration turned over to the City a 68-acre parcel of land that has been home to vital parts of our space programs for decades.

For Downey Mayor Gary McCaughan, other members of the City Council and all of us who know the long history of Downey with the American space program, this ceremony marks the end of one era and the opening of another. The buildings and shops at Downey produced the marvelous machines that took America to the moon and that still carry our astronauts into space to this day.

Over the span of the past 70 years, Downey has been the heart of our long national commitment to aviation, the exploration of space, and the advancement of our understanding of both the universe around us and the earth beneath us. Downey's contributions in excellent design, careful engineering, and extraordinary production skills were critical ingredients in the success of the Apollo, Skylab and Space Shuttle programs.

Now, NASA and The Boeing Company (which has operated the facility since buying it as part of the Rockwell Space Systems Division) will phase out of operations in Downey by the end of next year. The city has begun to move forward to meet the new challenges that lie ahead. Today's ceremony is an important part of this transition as NASA and the General Services Administration turn over 68 acres of federal land to the city for redevelopment so that Downey can create new jobs and new industries for the future.

Mr. Speaker, many people worked very hard to make today's ceremony possible. I want to thank Senator FEINSTEIN, in particular who provided unbelievable help in getting the Senate to agree to this land transfer. My friend and colleague, Congressman JERRY LEWIS, provided invaluable help in the House Appropriations Committee.

Many people at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the General Services Administration worked with us to make this land transfer a reality, and many

more at the Boeing Company are making this a smooth transition.

To Mayor McCaughan and other members of the City Council and City Manager Jerry Caton, I want to offer both my appreciation and my salute for the vision, leadership, and commitment they have demonstrated throughout this difficult process. There is no question that the phaseout of these high-skill jobs is a loss for Downey and our entire region, but I am confident that we can and will create new jobs, new products, and new services.

Our shared goal is not only to recover fully, but to prosper and grow with new economic development that will provide opportunities for generations to come. I remain committed to doing all I can do to help Downey succeed in the years ahead as the city redevelops this property. I also will do all I can to expedite transfer of the remaining land.

The key to Downey's future—as with the successes we honor from its past—is rooted in the vision and vigor of this wonderful community. On that score, we have much to celebrate and every reason to look forward with confidence.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH P. KENNEDY II, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

SPEECH OF

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 12, 1998

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, you always know when JOE KENNEDY has entered the room. There's a kind of hush, followed by a wave of heartfelt applause, and then you see it—the biggest, broadest smile in the United States Congress. A smile that lights up the room with inspiration.

For such a young man, the legislative track record JOE has accumulated is almost literally unbelievable. There is barely a consumer, human rights or housing reform that does not bear his name. From veterans health to industrial research-and-development, from Haitian democracy to MWRA water rates, it is difficult—even for me—to exaggerate the lasting significance of JOE'S work in this chamber. In combination with his private-sector contributions to low-income energy assistance, JOE KENNEDY virtually defines the phrase "public service".

As a newer member of this body, I know a good role model when I see it. And I know that this delegation, which is comprised of some of the most diligent members of the House, will do its very best to follow the roadmap that JOE KENNEDY has drawn for us.

JOE had big shoes to fill, when he arrived here 12 years ago. But like Yaz following Williams, people in and near Boston know something about stepping up to the plate. In their boxseats somewhere upstairs, Speaker O'Neill and President Kennedy are very proud that their successor has worked so hard to help craft public policy as sophisticated enough for investors on Wall Street—and as level-headed and compassionate as owners of three-deckers in Central Square.

When I learned of JOE'S intention to retire, my second reaction was how much we—his colleagues, in this delegation and in this House—will miss him. My first reaction was

how deeply JOE has earned the right to be closer to Beth and his sons. Nothing could conceivably be more important, and no one on the face of the earth could relish more the hours JOE can now spend away from Washington and with his family—with the possible exception of Alan Greenspan.

The best thing I can tell you, JOE, is—I'll see you at home.

A CRIMINAL STATE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

HON. PHILIP M. CRANE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 16, 1998

Mr. CRANE. Mr. Speaker, thanks to White House scandals and an impeachment inquiry preoccupying the attention of Americans, the poor performance of this administration on the affairs of state has been overshadowed. This incompetence has proven costly—in terms of human life in Bosnia and in terms of financial capital in places like Russia.

While the Clinton Administration and their allies at the International Monetary Fund, the IMF, would have you believe that Russia is merely experiencing the growing pains of a new market economy, nothing could be further from the truth. Instead, Russia has become a country run by thieves who respect none of the fundamental principles necessary for the establishment of a market economy. So money being poured into Russia by the IMF, courtesy of American taxpayers, is being heisted by criminals who buy, for example, chic real estate in France and a gambling casino in American Samoa.

To get the real story on Russia, I commend to the attention of my colleagues an article by Arnaud de Borchgrave from the September 28, 1998 edition of the Washington Times, entitled "Subsidizing the Kleptocracy." Mr. de Borchgrave points out that, contrary to the Clinton Administration and the IMF, Russia is not an emerging market economy and we deserve to know where all that foreign aid and IMF money is going.

SUBSIDIZING THE KLEPTOCRACY

The handwriting has been on the Kremlin's walls for the past seven years. The late great reporter Claire Sterling's best seller "Thieves World," published in 1994, documented the emergency of a criminally controlled Russian state—from top to bottom. But the U.S. national security establishment's Russian experts—Pied Pipped by Vice President Al Gore and Deputy Defense Secretary Strobe Talbott—not only walked by the wall looking the other way, but derided as "loose cannons" those who read the handwriting and took it seriously.

Four years ago, President Boris Yeltsin, in what sounded like a cry of despair, said Russia had become the world's "biggest mafia state ... the superpower of crime." He felt overwhelmed by the lethal mix of oligarchs, former intelligence and security officers, organized crime gangs, and corrupt Soviet-era bureaucrats who had hijacked Russia's transition from a communist command economy. Mr. Yeltsin has launched seven major crackdowns against organized crime in seven years—all to no avail. And a year ago, he told the upper house of parliament that "criminals have entered the political arena and are dictating our laws with the help of corrupt officials."